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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 20 (d) and 46

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 1 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter dated 31 May 2001 (see annex) from A. Abdullah, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, concerning the situation in Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexed texts circulated as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly under agenda items 20 (d) and 46.

(*Signed*) A. G. Ravan **Farhâdi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 1 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to the ongoing alarming situation in Afghanistan and the region and call your immediate attention to the following:

The Government of Pakistan in persistent pursuit of its hegemonic military adventurism in the region and in bold contempt of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000) continues to supply arms and ammunition to the Taliban mercenaries and remains vastly engaged in providing them with planning, mobilizing, logistical and recruitment support. The recent surge in these activities by Pakistan, however, is a mere supplement to its widespread presence in Afghanistan, as Pakistan maintains thousands of military personnel, non-commissioned officers, armed nationals belonging to numerous Pakistan-based extremist organizations and "volunteers" from religious schools called the Madrassa, fighting alongside the Taliban mercenaries.

Nonetheless, Pakistan's pursuit of this aggressive policy, in a bid to enthrone a proxy regime in Afghanistan, draws additional strength from scores of international extremist terrorist organizations closely linked with the Pakistan military junta, a dreadful axis which has created mounting threats to the peace and security of the region. In fact, the continuous intransigence exhibited by the Taliban mercenaries against repeated efforts and renewed calls for peace in Afghanistan precisely derives from this Pakistani adopted militaristic precept.

The international community, during the course of last year and still in the year 2001, witnessed how the Pakistan military junta played host to public mass gatherings of terrorist networks of the region and the extremist religious groups of Pakistan on its soil, who clearly and explicitly proclaimed their agenda and expressed intentions for expanding their realm of influence in the region through setting up extremist and radical regimes in countries of the region.

The aggressive ambitions by the Pakistan junta rests in close harmony with the radical religious groups in Pakistan as they bear a manifest symmetry with the terrorist networks present in the Taliban-held territories of Afghanistan and Pakistan and active worldwide, such as Osama-bin-Laden's Al-Qaida and others. To this end the latest interview on 31 May 2001 by the Pakistani military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf with the Russian daily *Izvestiya* provides unequivocal testimony. It reads as follows:

> "Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf has urged Russia to recognize Afghanistan's Taliban militia as means of restoring stability in the war-torn country. ... Musharraf countered that peace would never be restored in Afghanistan unless Russian and other world powers recognized Taliban. ... He added that Russia's recognition of Taliban would allow it to exercise some sway over the future of Afghanistan. ... This power 'the Taliban' has come to Afghanistan for a long time."

The preposterous comments of the Pakistani junta chief, Musharraf starkly beg for nothing short of legitimization of Pakistan aggression in Afghanistan from the Russian Federation, implying as an appeal to the rest of the international

community. Ironically enough these comments by the Pakistani General are made yet in utter disregard, disharmony with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on Afghanistan and in fact run utterly counter to the expressed and conscious demands by the international community (including the Russian Federation) for the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative Government in Afghanistan.

I should like to reiterate that the Islamic State of Afghanistan remains solemnly committed to defending the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan against the impending offensive by the Pakistan-bin Laden-Taliban axis, and holds Pakistan solely responsible for the consequences of their adventure in Afghanistan.

In the enclosure hereto I would like to transmit:

- A confirmed Government intelligence report, on the ongoing preparations for aggression in Afghanistan by Pakistan;
- A report in the *Jane's Defence Weekly* (JDW), Issue No. 22 dated 9 May 2001 by Anthony Davis, JDW's correspondent;
- A relevant article in the Pakistani English daily, *Dawn*, dated 31 May 2001 by M. Ilyas Khan.

(*Signed*) Dr. A. **Abdullah**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Intelligence Report on Continued Pakistani Military Assistance to the Taliban

Following is a prototype report of Pakistani military assistance to the Taliban militia in a blatant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) (December 1999) and 1333 (2000) (November 2000) as gathered by the intelligence sources of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I. Beginning with 21 April 2001, white 10-cylinder Mercedes Benz trucks with military-green tarpaulin, carrying Pakistani "AF" ("applied for") plates (issued prior to regularly registered plates), have transported ammunition and military supplies concealed under sacks of wheat and other food material to Kabul, Afghanistan.

II. Reports have confirmed, among others, the arrival of trucks carrying the following plates: AF1306, AF1353, AF1355, AF1367, AF1394, AF1395, AF1396, AF1404, AF1407, AF14012, AF14018 ...

III. The convoys constitute between 30 and 50 trucks, and depending on the level of battle intensity, have varied from two to three shipment trials per week. The trucks are loaded when the drivers are not present and are only unloaded during the night. When reaching eastern Kabul City, the convoys are split into two consignments, one heading to Khair-Khawna (northern Kabul periphery) and the other, to Qargha (western Kabul periphery).

IV. The following are data obtained on just a few days:

Date:	26 April (2001)	Convoy:	47 (Mercedes trucks)
	29 April		64
	29 April		45
	1 May		28 (regular trucks carrying Pakistani fighters).

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ASIA PACIFIC

Taliban plans offensive

ANTHONY DAVIS *JDW Correspondent*
Islamabad

The Taliban is building up its taskforce with hundreds of troops that have been airlifted in to Konduz, while numbers of armoured vehicles have been moved up to the front-line province of Takhar

Undeterred by a UN arms embargo, Afghanistan's Taliban regime is preparing for one of its largest offensives in recent years, aimed at breaking the back of the opposition Northern Alliance, according to Pakistan-based military and intelligence sources (*Jane's Defence Weekly* 9 May).

The hardline militia is completing its build-up of a taskforce estimated at 20,000-25,000 troops in north-eastern Takhar and Konduz provinces opposite Badakhshan, the last province to be held entirely by opposition forces.

Despite delays in May caused by fighting in the central and northern regions, hundreds of fresh troops have been airlifted from Kabul to Konduz, adjacent to the front-line province of Takhar. Numbers of refitted main battle tanks (MBTs) and other armoured fighting vehicles have moved north through the town of Pul-i-Khumri to Takhar in recent weeks.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that some MBTs may have been moved north on tank-transporters. If true, this would mark the first time tank-transporters have been seen in Afghanistan since the end of the Soviet occupation in 1989.

In addition to Afghan Taliban, indications are that foreign Islamist volunteers will again play a key role as a spearhead in the impending offensive. According to western military estimates, around 8,000-12,000 foreigners operate alongside the Taliban. Most are Pakistanis affiliated to various religious groups; others include Arabs loyal to Osama Bin Laden, and Central Asians and Chechens affiliated to the Afghanistan-based Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU).

Military analysts believe that the brunt of the Taliban offensive will fall on the Farkhar Gorge, now held by opposition commander Ahmadshah Massoud, and along the road towards the town of Keshm in Badakhshan. If successful, such a thrust could outflank the line of defence further north along the Kokcha River by Massoud.

Intelligence sources understand Pakistan has continued to provide logistic and advisory support for the build-up despite Islamabad's earlier assurances that it would abide by UN Security Council Resolution 1333 that since January has prohibited provision of materiel or advisory support to the Taliban. The UN has no mechanism in place that might monitor the implementation of the sanctions regime by Pakistan, which has backed the Taliban since the movement's inception in 1994.

In one week in early May two convoys of about 15 trucks each were moving daily from the Pakistan border at Torkham through Jalalabad to Kabul, according to reliable sources.

The Mercedes-Benz trucks carried Pakistani AF ('applied for') plates (issued in advance of normal registration plates) giving them a degree of anonymity, noted the sources. Munitions are understood to have been concealed under sacks of wheat.

Other munitions are understood to have been moved across the southern border at Chaman between the Pakistani city of Quetta and Kandahar in Afghanistan.

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Taliban poised to take over Takhar, Badakhshan

By M. Ilyas Khan

PESHAWAR, May 30: The Taliban are bracing themselves for a major offensive in northern Afghanistan to oust the opposition forces from Takhar and Badakhshan, sources here said on Wednesday.

They said that details of the offensive were finalized by top officials of the Afghan defence ministry in a meeting with the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, in Kandhar last Thursday.

Those who attended the meeting included Mullah Fazil Akhund, a top defence ministry official who has now been appointed commander of Takhar operation, Mullah Abdul Hai, in charge of the finances of the Takhar front, and four others. The meeting was told that the war expenses for the Takhar front had been raised from the current US$200,000 per week (US$10.4 million per year) to US$500,000 per week, the sources said. They added that the increase was approved by Mullah Omar in line with the Taliban's plans for ousting the opposition forces from Afghanistan this year.

The Taliban have been engaged in massive arms buildup on the Takhar front since March, and have raised a force of 35,000 troops to storm the remaining areas in Takhar and the north- eastern province of Badakhshan. Their forces include 5,000 "fidaeen" (suicide fighters) and 3,000 Central Asian militants led by an Uzbek rebel, Jumma Namangani.

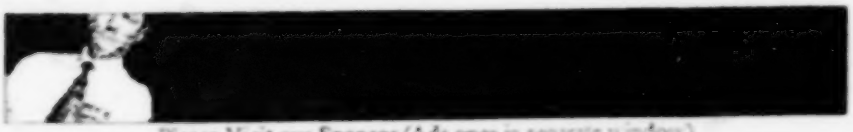
The Taliban have also moved medical corps from Kabul to set up field hospitals in areas behind the Takhar front lines, and have established a huge arms workshop at the Farkhar Gorge, bordering Badakhshan, sources said. In addition, the Taliban

purchased 2,000 horses from the local market for action in Takhar and Badakhshan and acquired a fleet of boats to capture some strategic islands in river Piandzhe, behind the defence lines of the opposition troops.

The concentration of the Taliban troops in Takhar began in March, when 15,000 troops stationed in Kandhar were shifted to the Takhar front lines. These were followed by a contingent of the newly-trained Taliban from the five jihadi seminaries of the country.

On May 8, fresh troops from Kabul's central corps were airlifted to Takhar by 20 flights. This build up coincided with the doubling of rations for all fronts from 570,000 afghan is per fighter per month to 1.40 million afghan is. Similarly, the ceiling for diesel consumption by each truck on war duty was raised from 100 litres to 200 litres.

Apart from 35,000 men on the Takhar front, Taliban have stationed 10,000 troops in Bamiyan, 12,000 in Shamali, 3,000 in Ghorband, and 10,000 in Kunar. There are smaller fronts in the east, north and west of the country, but their details are not available.



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